

## 48753 to 48797—Continued.

48759. *AVENA STERILIS* L. Poaceæ.

Oats.

"(No. 103. Kimberley, Cape Province. September 27, 1919.) Oats in market; grown in western province, probably near the Cape."

"The north African (Algerian) type, also commonly grown in South Africa." (*Warburton*.)

48760 to 48762. *CITRULLUS VULGARIS* Schrad. Cucurbitaceæ.

Watermelon.

48760. "(No. 80. Prieska, Cape Province. September 27, 1919.)

Seeds of a Kafir melon grown extensively throughout South Africa; used as feed for stock and also for pickles and preserves. After five months on the shelf at Prieska the flesh of this melon was firm and still white. It is especially valuable on account of its long-keeping qualities. Should do well anywhere in the United States. Grown along with corn by the Kafirs, either under irrigation or under semihumid conditions. It pushes into dry land, but not so far as No. 81 [S. P. I. No. 48761]."

48761. "(No. 81. Seeds of m'tsama melon of the Kalahari collected at Gibeon, German Southwest Africa, by G. W. Lawrence, of Prieska.) This melon grows wild on the great desert and constitutes the chief water supply to travelers and dwellers of that region. This seed may contain both the bitter and the sweet varieties. It should be planted at the beginning of the summer and winter rainy period on both dry land and irrigated land (to insure a supply of seed) at San Antonio, Sacaton, Yuma, Indio, Mecca, Hazen, and Chico.

"By far the most important plant of the Kalahari Desert, if we except the forage grasses, it is valued here as a stock feed and as a food for the natives. It is cooked and the water extracted. Buried in the soil it forms a reservoir of water and a storehouse of food for both man and beast. I see no reason why it should not thrive in a wild state in our warmer deserts, and it may survive on dry lands throughout the Great Plains and intermountain region."

48762. "(No. 117. Taungs, Cape Province. September 30, 1919.)

Watermelon seeds from Chief Malala, one of the Batlapin tribe of Bechuanas of the Taungs district (1,400 square miles). These seeds represent the type of watermelon grown by the natives. They are planted about November 1, when the spring rains come. This melon should be adapted to conditions of the South and Southwest, and possibly the Great Plains. Taungs is a region of scattered camel thorn over a grassland cover somewhat more luxuriant than our mesquite country in Texas. The soil is deep, red, sandy, and shows no hardpan. Apparently, the natives grow fairly good crops of kafir, mealies, and beans. They also keep cattle."

48763. *CITRUS* sp. Rutaceæ.

"(No. 155. Pretoria, Transvaal. October 13, 1919.) Seeds of a rough lemon used widely as a stock for citrus. These seeds were taken from fruit grown on the grounds at Pretoria. The seeds were not in the center of the fruit, but often far out toward the rind. The flavor of the over-ripe lemons is very good. The fruits are about 1½ inches in diameter."